(f) and (g) The aim of Government is to hold elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir as early as possible and efforts are being made to create conditions in which this could be brought about.

Killing by Militants in Jammu and Kashmir

361. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Hindutan Times dated the 10th September, 1994 under the caption 'Many blasts, gun battles claimed 56 lives in J and K' regarding the highest toll in militant-related violtce in the Valley during the past few months;

(b) if so, how many out of 56 revenge killings were militants;

(c) the steps taken to maintain peace in J&K; and

(d) how many of those killed were unarmed innocent people and the steps taken by Government to pay compensation to the kith and kin of those innocent people who were killed by the militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the news item in question. According to available information, 31 millitants, 12 civilians and 1 Security force personnel were killed in terrorist related activties on the 8th and 9th of September, 1994.

(c) Sustained and targetted operations against the terrorists are being continued to curb their activities and restore peace in the State.

(d) The State Government is providing ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin of innocent civilians killed in terrorist violence.

News Report on incidents in Kashmir

362. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Srinagar Urdu Daily, ALSAFA, in its issue of August 16, 1994 has published details of the incidents which happened in Kashmir from January, 1994 to June 30, 1994;

(b) whether these details are factually correct; and

(c) if not, what are the facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decrease Militant Activities in Jammu and Kashmir

363. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the militant activities have come down in Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, what are the factors in support of the conclusion;

(c) whether Government are taking some steps to resolve the issue in a democratic way; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (d) The militants have tried to keep their activities at high level. However, there has been a qualitative and perceptible change in the situation on the ground level, which is reflected in the successes

achieved in the anti militant opertan of the security forces, persisting inter-group clashes, increased atrocities by the militants civilians, growing disenchantment among the people with the activities of the militants and a visible change in their mood. The Goverment is committed to creating conditions conducive to normalisation of the situation and the restoration of the democratic and respresentative institutions in the State at the etarliest. Several steps have been taken towards this end including efforts to accelerate the development works and economic activity; reactivate the local administration, make it responsive to the needs of the people and restore its morale and confidence; strengthen the grievances redressal mechanism and restore the confidence of the ptople in the administration; and encourage the political elements to recommence their activities.

कश्मीर संबंधी नीति की पुनरीक्षा

364. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार कश्मीर के संबंध में अपनी नीति की पुनरीक्षा करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिये कोई कदम उठाये हैं कि वहां के नागरिकों को किसी प्रकार की असुविधा और परेशानी का सामना न करना पड़े; और

(घ) क्या सरकार एक नीति निर्धारण प्रकोष्ठ स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है ?

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री भुवनेश चतुर्वेदी) : (क) से (घ) सरकार का उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि जम्मू काश्मीर राज्य में शीघ्रातिशीघ्र शांति और सामान्य स्थिति पैदा हो तथा राजनैतिक और लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया बहाल हो । इसके लिये, स्थिति की लगातार और गहराई से समीक्षा की जा रही है तथा उसका प्रबोधन किया जा रहा है । उपर्युक्त उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति के लिये बहुत से कदम उठाये गये हैं । इनमें आतंकवादियों की गतिविधियों को रोकने तथा बन्दूक के भय को कम करने के लिये आतंकवादियों के खिलाफ निरन्तर और लक्ष्यबद्ध अभियान चलाना, राज्य में विकास तथा आर्थिक गतिविधियों की गति को तेज करने के प्रयास करना, सिविल प्रशासन को पुन: सक्रिय बनाने तथा इसके मनोबल की पुन: बहाली के लिये कार्रवाई करना, जनता का सहयोग लेकर प्रशासन में उनके विश्वास को पुन: बहाल करने का प्रयास करना, राज्य में राजनैतिक तत्वों को पुन: सक्रिय करना तथा लोगों को मुख्य धारा में लाने के लिये प्रेरित करने के प्रयास करने के अलावा निरुद्ध किये गये व्यक्तियों को रिहा करने जैसे कदम शामिल हैं । यह निर्देश भी दिये गये हैं कि अत्यधिक उकसावे के बावजूद भी सुरक्षा अभियानों में अत्यन्त संयम बरता जाये ताकि सिविलियनों को होने वाली परेशानी तथा नुकसान को कम किया जा सके । सरकार, इन सभी प्रयासों को तेजी से आगे बढ़ाने का विचार रखती है ।

Growth centres set up in the country

365. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to develop 70 Growth Centres in the country which may yield various benefits including employment;

(b) if so, the number of such Centers so far set up alongwith their location; and

(c) the number of persons benefitted from those Centres, Growth Centre-wise?